BIBLIOTHECA TOPOGRAPHICA BRITANNICA.

N° VI. PART II.

CONTAINING

Mr. THORPE'S ILLUSTRATION of ſeveral ANTIQUITIES in KENT, which have hitherto remained undeſcribed.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A Letter from Dr. PLOTT, intended for the ROYAL SOCIETY.

LONDON,
PRINTED BY AND FOR J. NICHOLS,
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AND SOLD BY ALL THE BOOKSELLERS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.
MDCCLXXXIII.

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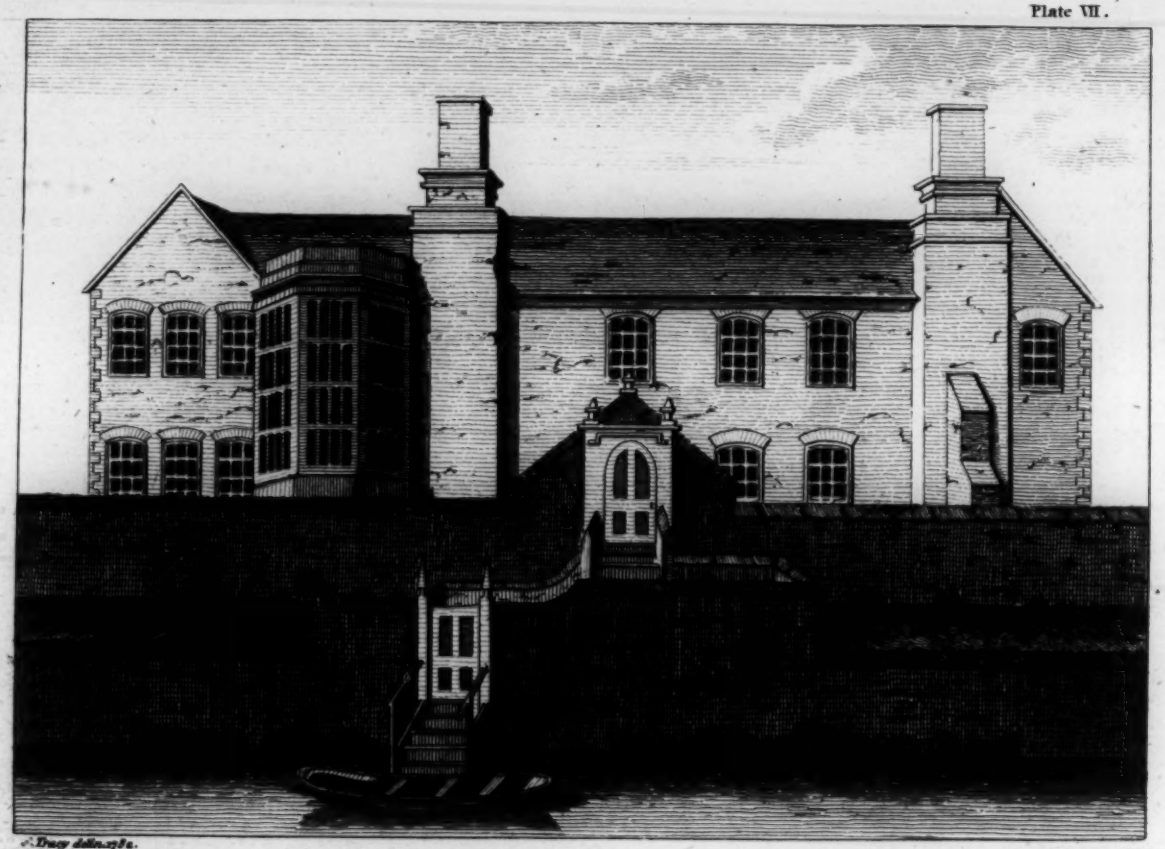
Plate VII.



J. Tracy delin. 1782.

A View of WHORNES PLACE in the Parish of CUCKSTONE.

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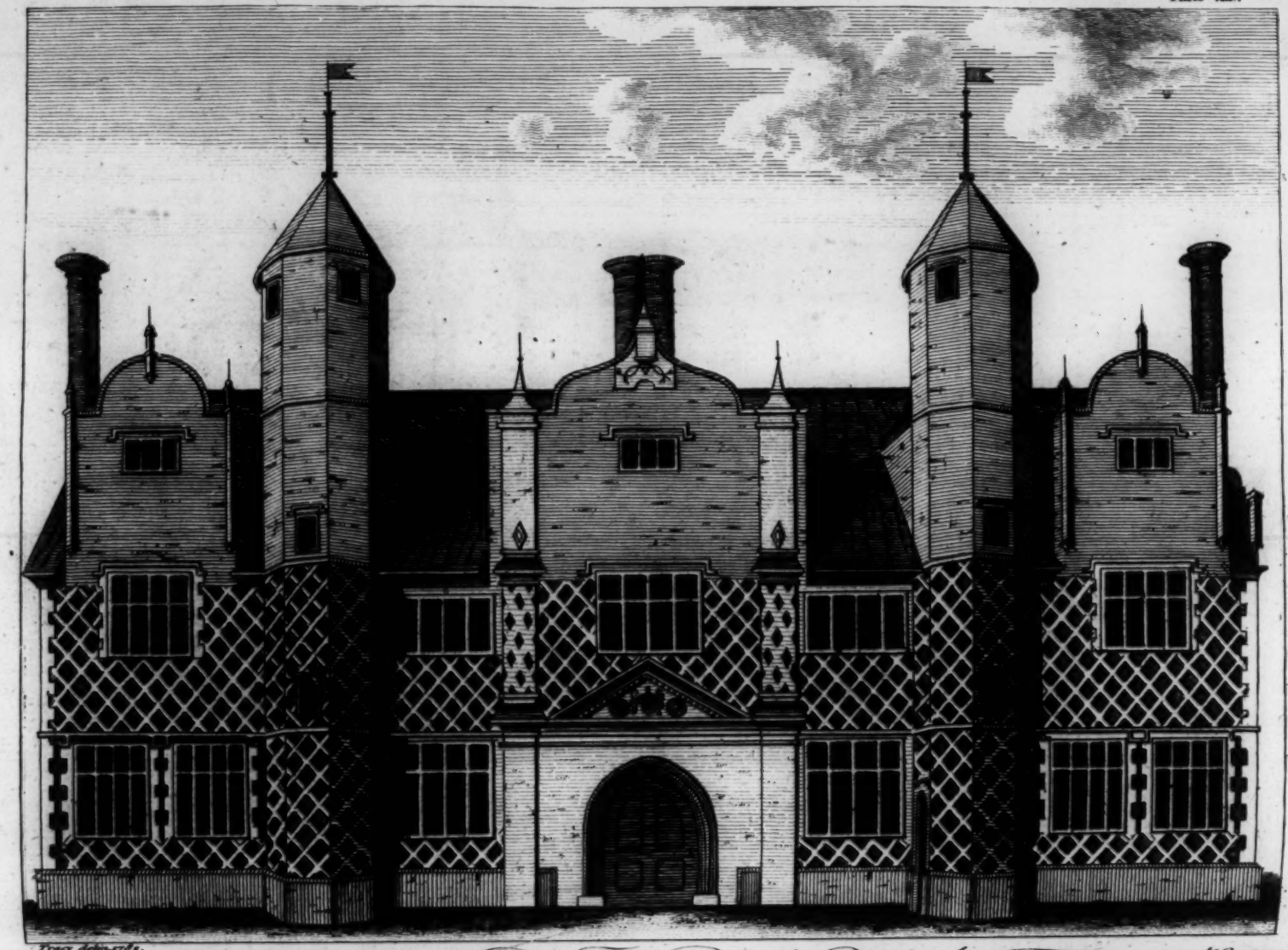
Plate VIII.



Tracy delin. 1782.

A Front View of the Stables at WHORNES PLACE in the Parish of CUCKSTONE in Kent.

ANTIQUITIES IN KENT,

HITHERTO UNDESCRIBED.

PART II.

COOKSTONE.

IN this pariſh ſtood the ancient ſeat called *Whorne's Place*, ſo denominated from Sir *William Whorne*, knt. who erected it. He was Lord Mayor of London in the year 1487, and 3d of Henry VII. It was pleaſantly ſituated on the weſtern bank of the Medway, commanding a view of the downs above Woldham on the oppoſite ſhore; and the meanders of that beautiful river down to the city of Rocheſter, and upward to Halling, Burham, &c. on each ſide. For a particular account of the deſcents of this eſtate, from Sir William Whorne to its preſent proprietor the Right Hon. Robert Lord Romney, I refer the reader to Mr. Haſted's Hiſtory of this county, vol. I. p. 482.

Nicholas Lewſon, or *Leveſon*, Eſq. purchaſed it about the beginning of Queen Elizabeth; for I find by an accurate ſurvey of the manor of Potynes in Snodland *, taken in the ſecond year of

* MS. penes me.

her reign, by order of Thomas Wotton, of Boughton Malherbe, Eſq. that ſome portions of the land of his ſaid manor of Potynes bounded to the lands of Nicholas and Thomas Lewſon, gentlemen. It ſhould ſeem that, while Whorne's Place was in the poſſeſſion of this family, they beſtowed much attention on it, by enlarging it and making great improvements, as appeared by the arms of *Leveſon*, quartered with three other coats hereafter mentioned, in a very handſome compartment over the weſt or back-door. I muſt confeſs, that as to the building itſelf, I ſaw no part except the large bow window towards the river, which could have been of Whorne's erection; and it may be obſerved in plate VII. that it breaks the regularity of the front. And I conceive that, on the re-erection or improvement of this manſion by the Leveſons, this window being curious, they ſuffered it to remain without deſigning their new work in any manner to ſuit it, the room which it lighted being little more than the window itſelf. A flight of ſtairs led from the river to a terrace walled in front; and on the ſouth ſide of the houſe were large gardens incloſed with brick walls, which produced a fine echo on the river, when oppoſite. On the north ſide of the houſe ſtood the magnificent ſtables, built with brick, in length 88 feet, in width 25 feet, with two fine towers, and pilaſters on each ſide the door-way. The whole front was enriched with a profuſion of work, and executed with excellent ſymmetry. The pediment over the door was ornamented with handſome ſtone mouldings and dental cornice, and three ſhields of arms. That in the center contained the following nine coats quarterly:

1. Three laurel leaves, the arms of *Leveſon*.
2. Two bends wavy, between 2 leopards heads caboſſed, with a border.
3. On a chevron between 3 cinquefoils, 3 roundles.
4. Ermine, a lion rampant, within a border ingrailed.

5. A cheveron between 3 cinquefoils.
6. A cheveron ermine between 3 buckles.
7. A cheveron between 3 cheſſrooks.
8. Five martlets on a chief indented 3 crowns.
9. As the firſt.

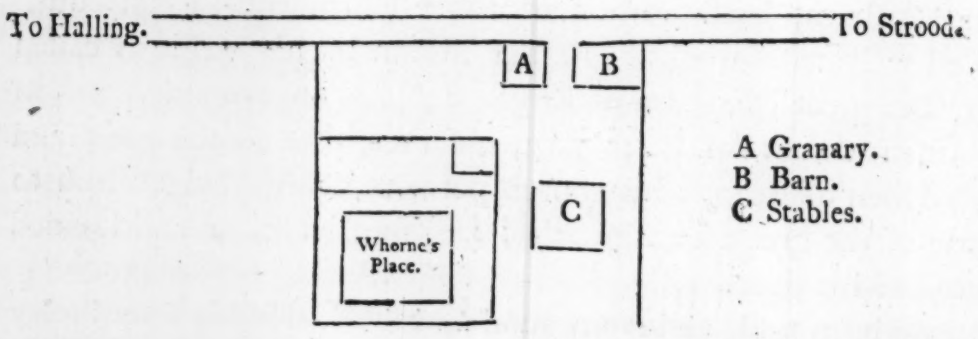
Sir John Leveſon, of Whorne's Place, in Cookſtone, married Margaret daughter of Sir Roger Manwood, knt. whoſe arms were, Sable, two pallets Or, on a chief of the ſecond a demi-lion naiſſant of the firſt. Theſe arms are in a lozenge on the right-hand of the above quartered coat, and ſhould imply that the ſaid Margaret was the firſt wife of Sir John, the three lions rampant in the left-hand lozenge being probably his ſecond wife's. Wherefore I conclude the nine coats quarterly were the arms of Sir John Leveſon, knt. and that the building was erected by him. His brother Sir Richard Leveſon, knight of the Bath, who was of Trentham in Staffordſhire, alienated all his lands in Kent to different perſons, and among them Whorne's Place, in the reign of Charles I. to that moſt excellent hiſtorian and antiquary Sir John Marſham, bart. author of the "Chronicon Egyptiacum," and other learned works. Father Simon in his writings called him "the great Marſham of England;" and Anthony a Wood, in his Athen. Oxon. vol. II. p. 783, obſerves, that all the great and learned men of Europe his contemporaries acknowledged him to be one of the greateſt antiquaries, and moſt accurate and learned writer, of his time.

I have been told, and from good authority, that his fine library was in this building, in the apartments raiſed on the north-eaſt end of it, and another floor over *them*, with ſtair-caſes on the outſide to each floor. A pretty extraordinary circumſtance, that no inconveniences from the feeding, &c. of horſes *under the ſtudy* ſhould be apprehended. But the height and other reaſons might be more regarded. There were, I think, four rooms

above on each floor; but of little uſe for many years paſt. Mr. Caleb Perfect, the late rector of this pariſh, informed me, that ſome years ago he often viſited poor ſick people in ſome of them; and there was a *window* in the ſtudy, if I miſtake not, that deſerved notice. It is a great pity two ſuch venerable buildings ſhould have been deſtroyed: but only tenants and labouring people having for many years lived there, and the noble and worthy proprietor reſiding altogether at his ſeat near Maidſtone, they were pulled down in the year 1782; and the whole, as I am informed, is deſigned to be cleared away, except the granary and barn; the former is to be converted into a farm-houſe, and the ſcite of the old ſeat into meadows, &c.

Plate VII. exhibits a view of the houſe, and plate VIII. a front view of the ſtables of this curious old manſion.

The granary is a ſmall building adjoining the road to Halling, the ſituation of which will be better underſtood by the plan annexed.



The way out of the road into the yard is between the granary and barn.

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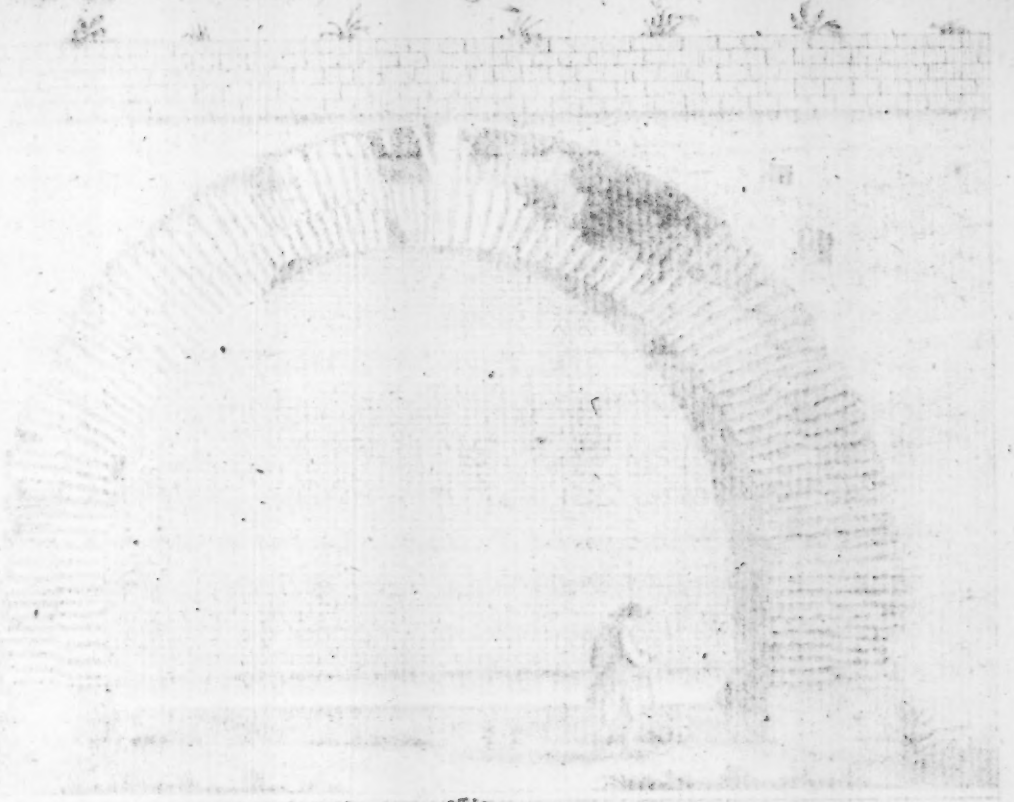

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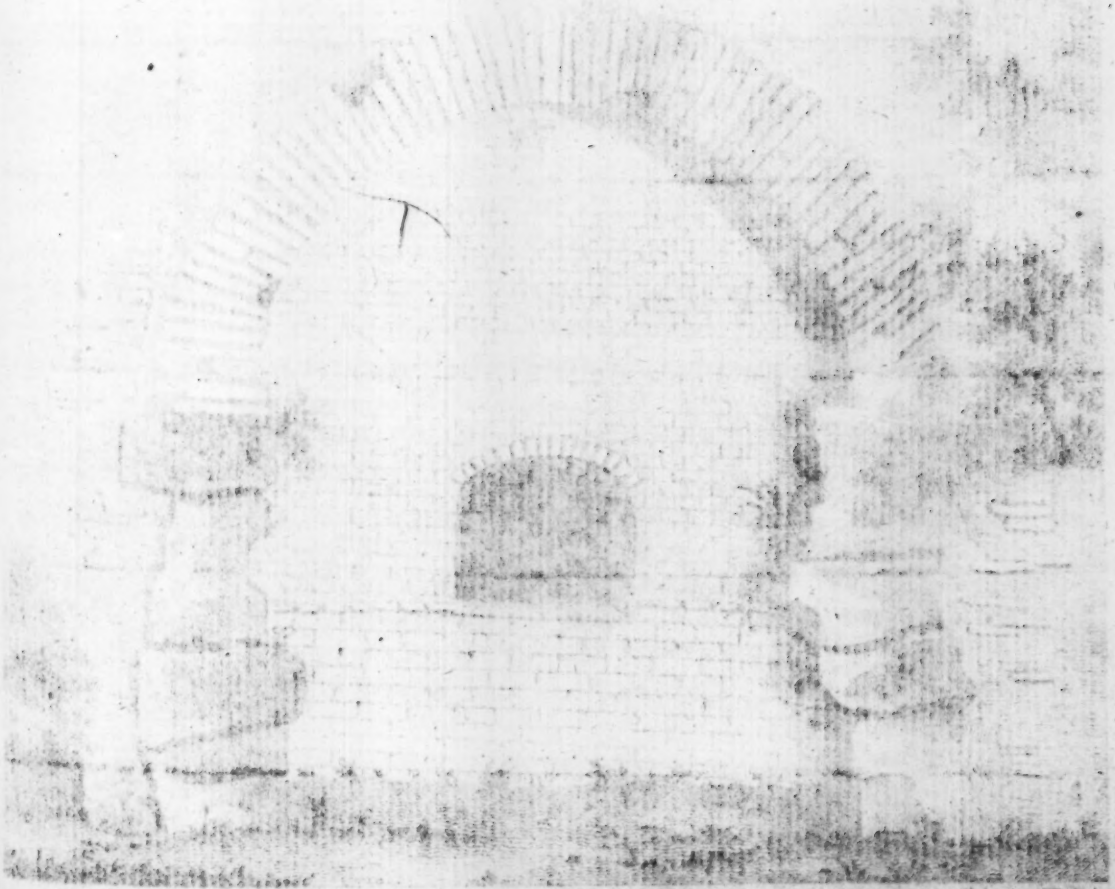
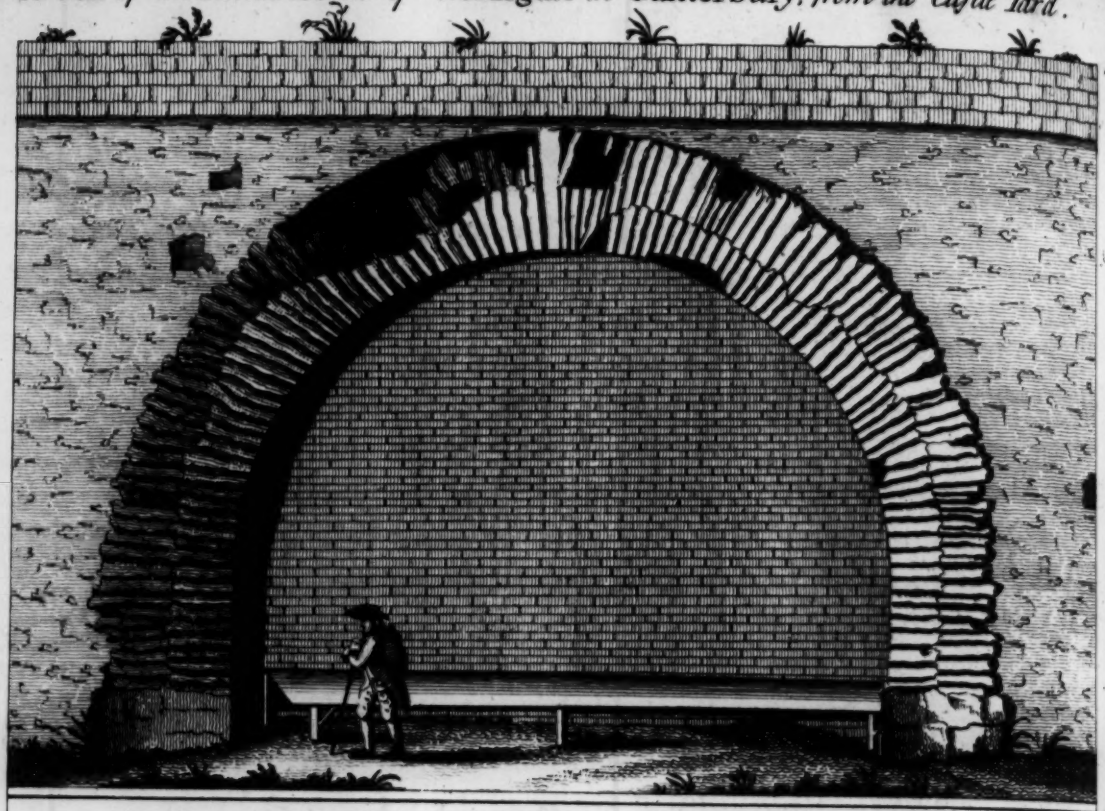


A View of the Roman Arch of Worthgate *in* Canterbury, *from the Caſtle Yard.*



View of the ſame as it appears from the Garden in the City Ditch.

C.E. Thorpe delin. 1771.

CANTERBURY.

NEAR Wincheap Gap in this city ſtands *Worthgate*, now diſuſed and walled up, through which in ancient times the Roman road continued in a direct line from Caſtle-ſtreet to Wincheap, Chilham, &c. The alteration of this road, which now makes an elbow into Wincheap, and the different ſtations of the military way, the reader will find amply treated of in Battely's edition of Somner, p. 12, & ſeq. Worthgate is without doubt the fineſt remnant of antiquity in this city, and perhaps the moſt entire of its kind in the kingdom *. The preſervation of it is owing, as Mr. Goſtling informed me, to the care and generoſity of Dr. Gray, an eminent phyſician of this city (who died in 1737), through whoſe interceſſion the corporation were prevailed on to let it remain, who otherwiſe would have taken it down. And for its further ſecurity, the doctor, at his own charge, repaired the inſide wall with new brick work and coping, and under it erected a commodious bench †. The boldneſs of the arch, conſiſting entirely of Roman bricks, ſtrikes the eye of the beholder with a kind of veneration. In the inſide next the Caſtle-yard the ground has been raiſed ſo much from time to time, that no more than one foot ſix inches of the ſtone piers or columns to the ſprings of the arch are now to be ſeen; but when viewed on the garden ſide in the city-ditch, the gate makes a noble appearance, as the height of the

* Leland, in his Itinerary, ſays, "The moſt ancient buildinge of the toune appeareth yn the caſtel, and at Ryder's gate, where appere long Briton brikes." The old way to London is found to have been along Caſtle-ſtreet, and through this gate; which Somner thinks took its name either from its vicinity to the caſtle, *Worth* ſignifying a fort, or caſtle; or elſe from a corruption of *Wardgate*, from the watch and ward kept in and about this fortreſs. See Mr. Groſe, under his view of *Canterbury Caſtle*.

† This bench has been long removed, and the Roman bricks are now decaying or rather falling out by the decay of the cement. A plan is alſo in agitation for taking down the whole, and opening the old ſtrait road through the Caſtle-yard.

piers

piers is ſeven feet ſix inches. They are compoſed of a kind of rag-ſtone, two feet ſix inches in breadth, which appear to have been ſquared, but are now irregular and uneven, from being much corroded and mouldered away through the great length of time; whilſt the arch, which conſiſts of a double row of bricks, remains as firm and durable as ever, ſo well had the Romans the art of tempering and burning their clay. The length of the longeſt brick on the caſtle ſide is one foot five inches, depth of the thickeſt three inches; and the number of the inſide row 102 or 104*. I took the meaſurement of this gate-way in the year 1771, when the drawings in plate IX. were made, and find it correſponds nearly with that ſince publiſhed by Mr. Goſtling†; which I ſhall here give as follows.

In the inſide,

	Feet.	Inches.
The diameter of the arch is - -	12	3½
It ſprings from the piers - -	6	0½
The piers above ground - -	1	6

On the ditch ſide,

Height of the plinth - - -	1	0
From that to the ſpring of the arch -	6	6
Breadth of the gate-way from pier to pier	12	6
Height of the gate in the middle -	13	7½
The thickneſs of the arch - -	2	4
The earth raiſed on the caſtle ſide -	6	0

As Mr. Goſtling has given views of ſeveral gates in the city and about the cathedral, it is a wonder that Worthgate, the moſt curious and ancient of any, ſhould be omitted‡; as are likewiſe

* Not more than 88 now remain entire.

† Walk in and about Canterbury, 2d edit. p. 365.

‡ A very ſmall indiſtinct view of it occurs in Mr. Groſe's plan of Canterbury Caſtle.

thoſe

BRITISH MUSEUM

South West View of the Parish Church, *at Chatham.*

Fig 1.

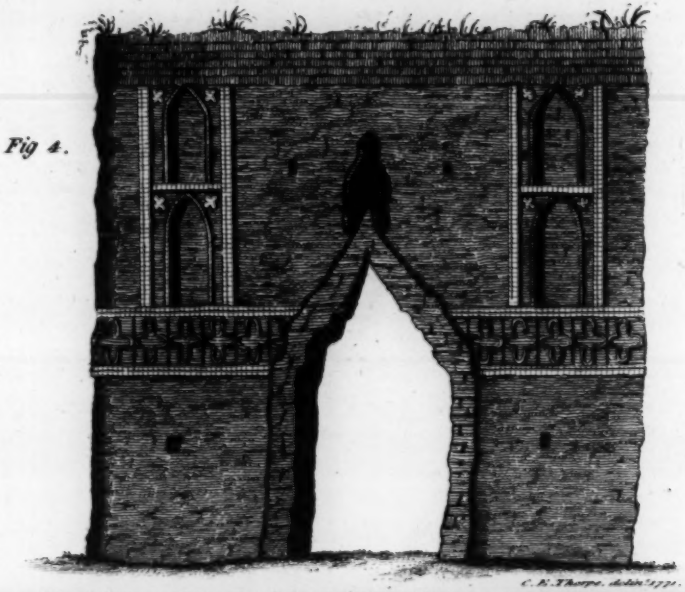
View of the Ruins of the Chapel *in Milkhouse Street in Cranbrooke.*

Fig 2.

Fig 3.

Front View of the Gate *to the* White Friers, *in Canterbury.*

Fig 4.



Front View of the Gate *to the* Black Friers, *in Canterbury.*

thoſe which lead into the *White* and *Black Friers*. It may be the fate of the two laſt, one time or other, to be taken down, as many have been, to make more room; and as no draught of them has hitherto been made public, I have here given, in plate X. a front view of them taken in the year 1771. The ſmall niches or receſſes ſtill remaining over the gates were formerly ornamented with figures of ſaints; which, on the ſuppreſſion of theſe monaſteries, were taken down and deſtroyed.

CHATHAM.

EGELRICUS, a prieſt of *Cettham*, is mentioned as a benefactor to the monks of St. Andrew in Rocheſter, and was one of the ſecular canons of that priory*. His being afterwards appointed by his fraternity an officiating prieſt in this pariſh, implies that there was a church, or ſome place of divine worſhip, which muſt have been but a ſmall mean building, as were moſt of the ſacred edifices at that early period. But after the Conqueſt, when the Norman architecture prevailed, and lords of eminent manors built and endowed places of public worſhip on their demeſnes, the buildings were upon a more enlarged and elegant plan. *Chatham* was the principal manor which appertained to the barony of the potent and illuſtrious family of the *Crevecoeurs*, and their place of reſidence before they removed to Leeds Caſtle; and they were frequently written *Domini de Cetham* †. *Hamon* de *Crevecoeur* was one of the knights who attended William I. to

* Text. Roff. p. 181.

† Phillipott, Vill. Cant. p. 104.

England, and was rewarded for his ſervices by the king with the manors of Chatham and Leeds. Kilburne calls him *Hugh*, and ſays, that he began the building of Leeds Caſtle*. His deſcendant, *Robert de Crevecoeur*, or *de crepito corde*, as he is ſtyled in the Regiſtrum Roffenſe, founded and endowed, anno 1119, the priory at Leeds for Black Canons regular, of the order of St. Auguſtine, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Nicholas; which, at the ſuppreſſion, according to Dugdale, was valued at 362l. 7s. 7d. per annum.

Many of the founder's name and family were afterwards benefactors to this monaſtery, by granting to it divers revenues and liberties; and ſo great was his zeal, that he granted to it, for the repoſe of his own ſoul and of the ſoul of his uncle Hamon Dapifer, ſeven churches at one time, ſituated on his eſtates; among which was the church of Chatham, with the rights and profits of the fair, &c. there†. This eminent family coming into England with the Conqueror, and being poſſeſſed of this manor, it is moſt likely they enlarged if not re-edified the church; which, as before obſerved, muſt have been but a ſmall edifice, and frequently liable to deſtruction by the caſualties of fire and invaſion of foreign enemies. It was no longer under the patronage of the canons of St. Andrew, but the cure of it was ſupplied by a monk from the new monaſtery at Leeds, whom the prior ſhould appoint, and might remove at his pleaſure; though it was enjoined that he ſhould profeſs canonical obedience to the ordinary‡. For when Gundulph was conſecrated biſhop of Rocheſter by archbiſhop Lanfranc, March 19, 1077, who both likewiſe came from Normandy, and had been monks of the abbey of Bec in that province, he diſplaced the ſecular canons from the priory of St. Andrew, and filled it with monks of his own order,

* Survey of Kent, p. 164.

† Regiſt. Roff. p. 209, & ſeq.

‡ Ibid. p. 214, &c.

who

who followed the rule of St. Benedict. The antient church of Chatham being conſumed by fire, the Pope granted a letter of indulgence, anno 1352, of a year's relaxation of penance to all perſons who ſhould enable the inhabitants to rebuild it*. It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and Philipot ſays it was repaired, and the ſteeple rebuilt by the commiſſioners of the navy, in the year 1635†. According to a late Hiſtory of Rocheſter, p. 267, the Eaſt end of the church, now ſtanding, is nearly all that remains of the building raiſed by the Pope's brief, the North and South iſles are of a latter date, and the ſaid commiſſioners rebuilt and enlarged the Weſt end. Philipot only ſays they repaired the church, and erected the ſteeple; and indeed the antient window over the door at the Weſt end ſtill remains unaltered, and is now the only part of the church that wears the face of antiquity. The Weſt end has been enlarged ſince with a bold pediment ſupported by pilaſters, and with a pigeon-houſe-like ſteeple; and the whole building is now plaiſtered, and ſo much modernized, as to have, though a neat, yet little appearance, of a ſacred edifice. A South Weſt view in its preſent ſtate is exhibited in plate X. fig. 1.

Some few years ſince, in digging a grave in this church, a hand was found intire and uncorrupted as far as the wriſt or metacarpal bones, griping the hilt of a ſword; the other parts of the body were totally conſumed, and likewiſe the blade of the ſword. It was afterwards kept in a ſmall box with bran, at the ſexton's houſe on *Chatham Bank*; and when I ſaw it, I obſerved that the handle of the ſword was, for the moſt part, mouldered away; which being of braſs, the moiſture had penetrated the fleſhy parts of the hand and nails, and tinged them of a verdegreaſe colour, which had preſerved them.

* Regiſt. E. de Shepey, fol. 257. b. † Villar. Cant. p. 104.

CRANBROOKE.

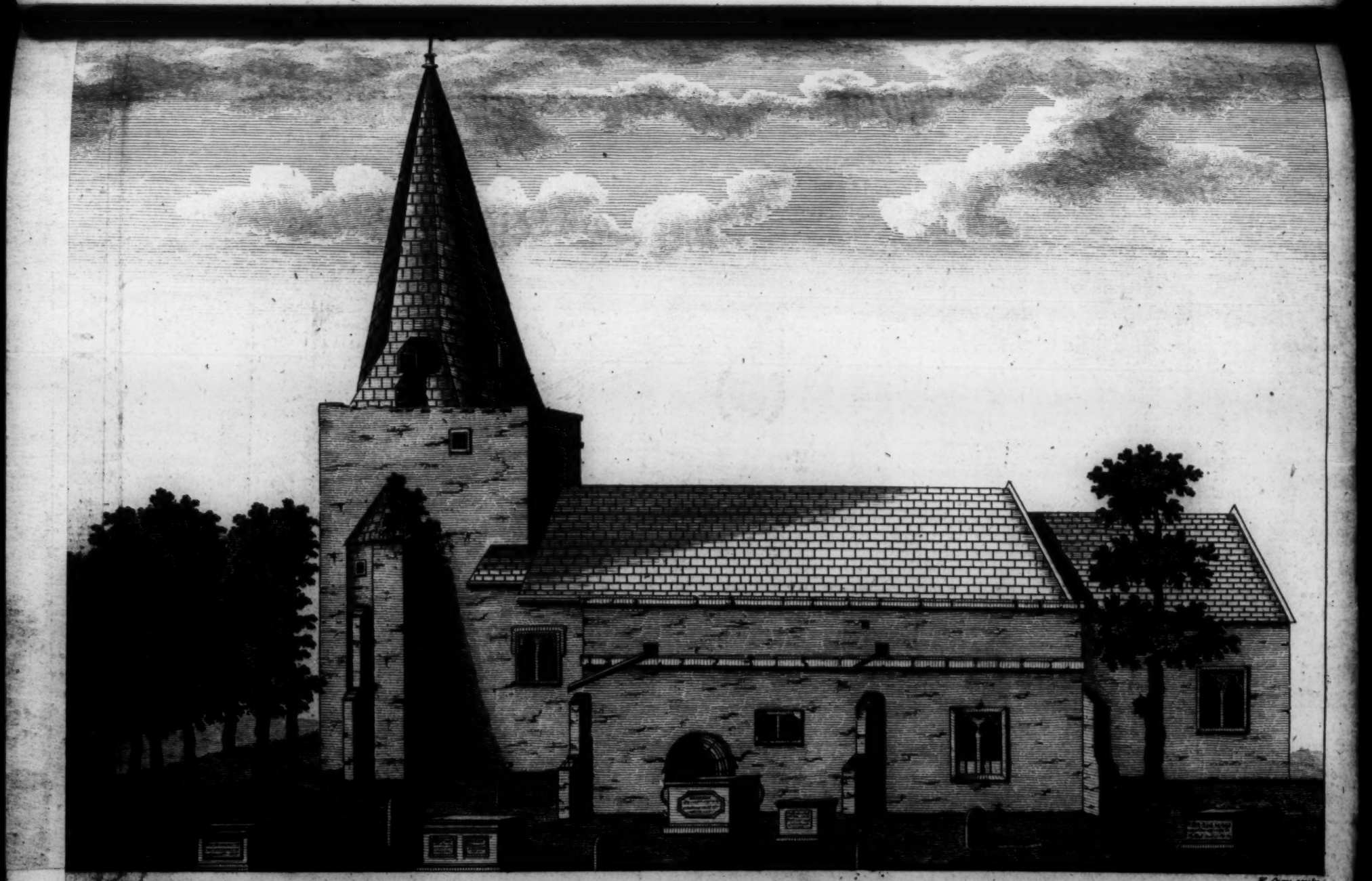
AT *Milkhouſe Street*, ſo denominated from an antient ſeat in this pariſh, ſtand the ruins of a free chapel, founded and endowed by John Lawleſs, about the latter end of the reign of Henry VII. but on the general diſſolution of the religious houſes, king Henry VIII. granted the lands belonging to it (then valued at 84l. 10s. 10½d.) to Sir John Baker, of Siſinghurſt, in this pariſh; and among his other eſtates it continued and deſcended*. Kilburne ſays, this chapel was in ruins in his time, and that it was dedicated to the Holy Trinity†. All that now remains of it is part of the chancel end and great Eaſt window, which make a venerable appearance, and ſhew it to have been a handſome building. See plate X. fig. 2.

CLIFFE.

AMONG the communion plate appertaining to this large handſome church, is ſtill preſerved a very curious and antient *patine*, which, when the Roman Catholick religion prevailed here, covered the chalice, or contained the conſecrated wafers at the ſacrament of the *maſs*, but is now made uſe of in collecting the *alms*. It is of ſilver gilt, of the exact ſize and dimenſion as the figure exhibited in plate XII. engraved from a correct drawing taken in the year 1774. In the centre, moſt beautifully embelliſhed

* Philipott, Vill. Cant. p. 100. † Survey of Kent, p. 65.

with



F. Grey sculp.

The South East Prospect of **FRINSBURY CHURCH** near Rochester. 39

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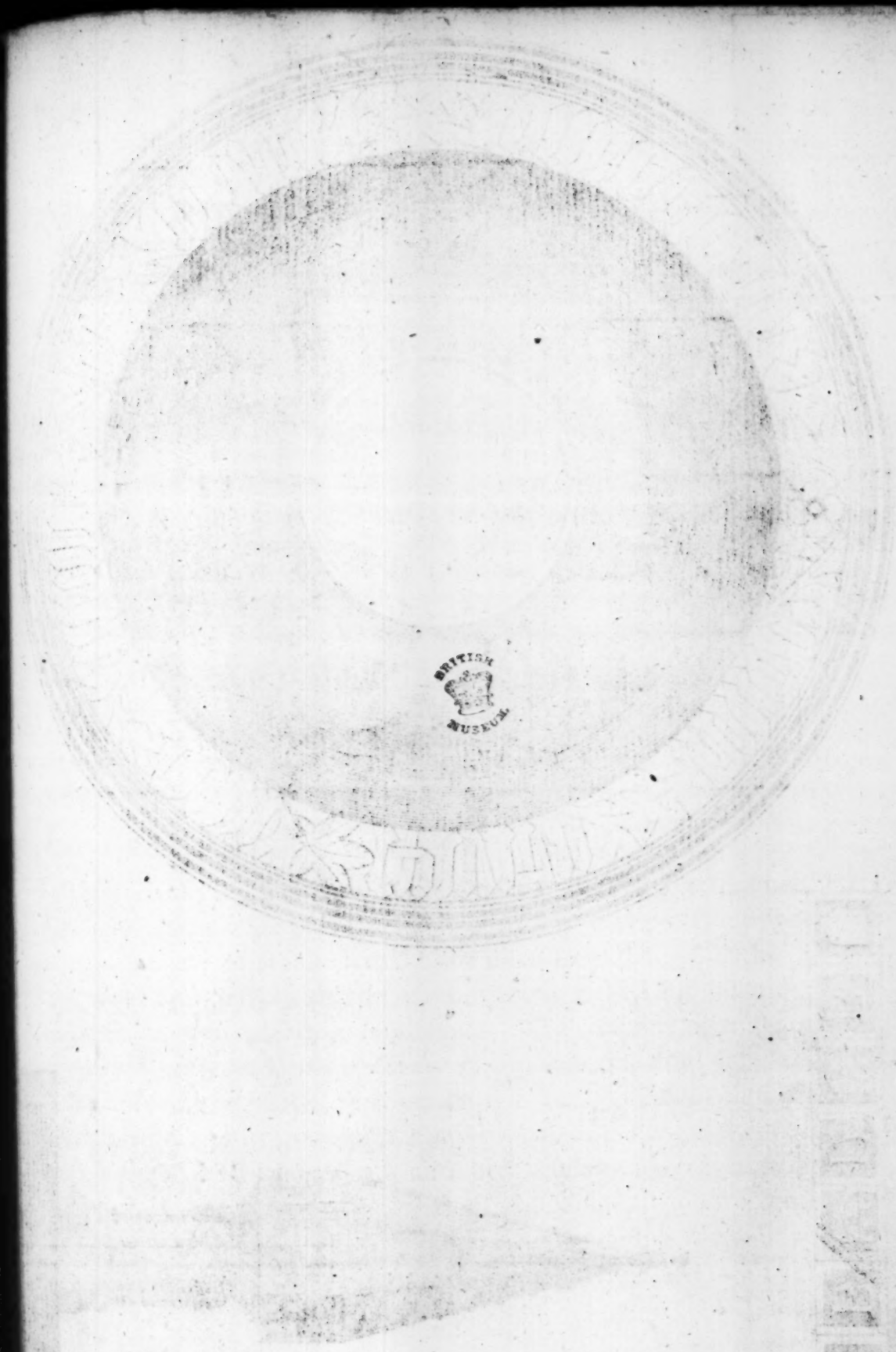
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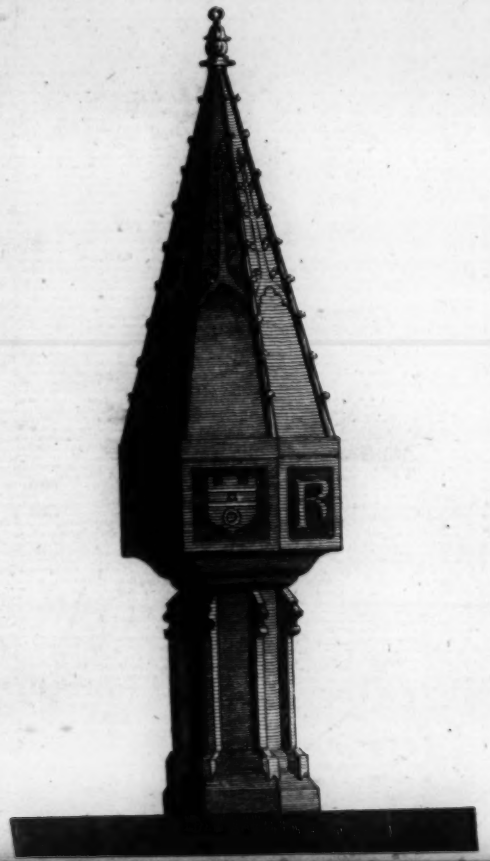

with blue and green enamel, is repreſented the Deity ſitting with his arms extended, and ſupporting his Son on the Croſs, with an *olive branch* in the left-hand, and the *Goſpel* in the right. Round the verge or rim of the *patine* is the following inſcription, in the ancient text letter, curiouſly ornamented with ſprigs of roſes between each word, alluding to the ſubject:

Benedicamus. Patrem. et. Filium. cum. Spiritu. Sancto.

The reſt of the plate for the communion ſervice conſiſts of two ſilver bread-plates, and one ſilver flaggon; with this inſcription on them: "In miniſterium Cœnæ Dominicæ, D. D. D. Q. Geor-"gius Green, S. T. B. rector et commiſſarius de Cliffe."

FRINDSBURY.

THIS church (ſee plate XI.) ſtands on a fine eminence, which commands a view of the river Medway, and on the oppoſite ſhore the city of Rocheſter, the towns of Stroud and Chatham, to the right and left, with the circumjacent hills, &c. forming altogether a moſt pleaſing landſcape. The church conſiſts of two ailes, is neat, and in good repair, but has nothing very remarkable in it, except the *font*, which is a curious piece of gothic workmanſhip, and in good preſervation. It is octangular, with a taper elegant ſhaft or column, and brackets at each angle from the bottom of the font to the ſwell of the pedeſtal. The compartments are excellently carved in relievo, containing the following ſubjects: 1. The ancient text letter J. 2. In a ſhield,

Gules, two Bars argent, between three Annulets Or, in feſſe a Mullet for difference. 3. The letter R. 4. The ſame arms. 5. The letter N. 6. The ſame arms, with a Martlet in feſſe for difference. 7. The letter R. 8. A blank ſhield. Theſe letters and inſignia diſcover the donor and time when erected; for *John Rykeld* held the manor of *Eſlingham*, in this pariſh, of the church of *Rocheſter*, and was ſheriff of Kent the 3d year of Henry VI. and kept his ſhrievalty at the ſaid manor*. He was likewiſe the ſame year returned one of the khights in parliament. *Thomas Rykeld*, of *Eſlingham*, gent. died in the 18th year of Edward IV. leaving *John Rykeld* his ſon and heir, a minor, the cuſtody of whom, as well as of this manor, during his minority, was then granted by *John Langdon*, biſhop of *Rocheſter*, to Sir *Thomas Seyntleger*, knt. *Henry Merlande*, and *Henry Cantlowe* †.

The font being in part crouded by pews, which is generally the caſe, rendered a drawing of it the more difficult. It ſhould ſeem as if the arms had originally been painted, as their preſent colours agree with the ſame mentioned in the Regiſt. Roff. ‡, and with the arms of *Rikhill* in Edmonſon's heraldry. They likewiſe elucidate, and ſhew, that the perſon who lies interred in the north chancel of Northfleet church, with his effigies in armour, and that of his wife in the dreſs of the times, with this imperfect inſcription on the fragment of a braſs plate beneath them—*et Katerine, uxoris ejus*—was of the ſame family. Above the figures are theſe arms, viz. *Two Bars between three Annulets*; and the ſame again impaling a chevron between three columbines. On another graveſtone in the ſame chancel is the following inſcription on a braſs plate: "Hic ſub pede ante altare jacent Wil-" lelmus Rikhill, arm. filius Willelmi Rikhill militis primoge-" nitus, et Katherina uxor ejus, que obiit 27 Aug. 1433. qui

* Philipot's Vil. Cant. p. 152. † Regiſt. Roff. p. 372. ‡ Ibid.

" quidem Willelmus obiit ..... die ..... 1400. Quorum—*" Weever, from Stowe's Annals, ſays, that " Sir William Rikhill, " the father, was one of the king's juſtices, an Iriſhman born, " the vehement urger of accuſations againſt *Thomas* of Wood- " ſtocke, duke of Glouceſter, and *Thomas Arundell*, archbiſhop of " Canterbury, Ann. Reg. regis Ric. II. 21. 1397 †." Kilburne mentions the two *Rickhills* buried in Northfleet church; one above 250 years, and another above 220 years before his time; but does not give us their Chriſtian names ‡. Philipott likewiſe ſays that *John Rykeld*, and *William* his ſon, lay entombed in this church; but ſtrangely confounds both names and dates. For, in page 255, he ſays the four manors of *Iſield*, *Well*, *Coſington*, and and *Shinglewell*, deſcended to *John Rykeld*, about the reign of Henry IV.; that *William* his ſon deceaſed without iſſue male; and *Roſe*, his ſole daughter and heir, was married to *Edward Limſey*, who deſcended from *Ralph de Limſey*, held the manor of Budbrook in Warwickſhire, 20 William I. In the ſubſequent page he ſays, that *Roſe* was ſole heir of *John Rykeld*, and matched with *John Limſey*; and that the ſaid manors came to *Rykeld* about the begin- ning Henry VI. ||. How are we to reconcile theſe miſnomers and miſtakes? The confuſion in the names certainly ariſes from his inattention, and of the hiſtorians after him; nor will the ſhort period in which the family of the *Rykelds*, or *Rikhills*, exiſted, as the name came afterwards to be ſpelt, allow for their being ſo many *Johns*, *Williams*, &c. and it ſhould ſeem that Philipott's firſt acount of thoſe in Northfleet muſt be the true one; in ſupport of which I find that *Edward Limſey*, the father, was returned 12 Henry VI. one of the gentlemen of this county; and Philipot, p. 255, ſays *John Limſey*, the ſon, fifty years afterwards, viz. 1 Richard III. ſold the *Rikhill* eſtates. By all this it appears

* Regiſt. Roff. p 753. 756.
† Funeral Mon. p. 332.
‡ Survey of Kent, p. 204.
|| Villare Cant. p. 255, et ſeq.

Edward

Edward muſt have been the perſon who married *Roſe Rikhill*, and not *John*.

Richard II. cloſed his reign September 1399. Sir *William Rikhill* is ſaid to die in the next, and his ſon *William*, by the inſcription, in 1400; ſo that father and ſon muſt have both died within the year, if the ſon ſucceeded the father; but if he died in *vita patris*, then it is likely he might leave a ſon of the name of *William* to ſucceed his grandfather; which latter *William* (if there was any ſuch) was probably brother to *Roſe*, and the perſon who conveyed away the manor of *Ridley* 16 Henry VI. and likely died ſoon after, agreeably to the account given by Kilburne, of one of the *Rikhills* being buried at Northfleet about 1439. But I rather think there is a miſtake in the inſcription, in the placing the time of his death upon it, and that there were but two *Williams*. It is moſt likely the military perſon who lies interred under the imperfect inſcription, was the *John* mentioned by Philipott, and another ſon of Sir *William*. Without doubt there were originally other memorials of this family in the ſaid chancel, which may have been deſtroyed (as is too often the caſe) to make room for other graveſtones; and indeed I have ſome reaſon to think ſo from appearances. To conclude this matter, it is I think certain that the *Rikhills* of *Eſtingham* in *Frinſbury* deſcended from the family at *Northfleet*; and that *John Rikhill* of *Eſtingham*, who was ſheriff of Kent, was a younger ſon of Sir *William Rikhill* of *Northfleet*; and the arms, with a mullet for difference on the font, ſhew that he erected it. The coat differenced with a martlet, and the initials N. R. it is likely were for a younger brother, and the blank ſhield left in reſerve, or for want of another to fill it up. I find in Mores's Hiſtory of Tunſtall that *John Rykeld*, grandſon of the ſheriff, married *Margaret* daughter of Sir *James Crowmer*, of *Tunſtall*, knt. She is interred in that church under a braſs plate, with the following inſcription:

" Hic

" Hic jacet Margareta filia d̄ni Jacobi Crowmer militis dudum uxor Joh̄is Rycyls " heredis manerii de Eſlyngham, quæ obiit ſec̄do d̄cēbr' anno domini millmo " CCCCLXXXXVI°. cujus anime ꝓpiciet deus amē. *"

On the ſtone are the arms of *Crowmer*, viz. Argent, a chevron engrailed Sable, between three Crows proper, impaling *Rykeld*.

The following ſhort pedigree may perhaps ſomewhat elucidate the deſcents of the above family.

Sir William Rikhill, knight, juſtice of the king's bench, conſtitutus 20 Maii, Pat. 12 Ric. II. p. 2. m. 5. † = ...

William Rikhill, eſq. eldeſt ſon, died 1400, buried in Northfleet church. = Katharina, ux. ejus ob. 27 Aug. 1433, ibi ſep.

John Rykeld of Eſlingham, 1 Hen. VI. ſheriff of Kent, 3 Hen. VI. = ...

Rose, ſole daughter and heir. = Edward Limſey, eſq.

Thomas Rykeld, of Eſlingham, died before 13 Nov. 18 Edw. IV. = ...

John Limſey, ſold the lands in Northfleet, 1 Ric. III.

John Rikhill, of Eſlingham. = Margaret, daughter of Sir James Crowmer, knight, buried at Tunſtall.

Plate XII. ſhews the elevation of the font, and its compartments ſeparately.

Thus far I had written, when I was favoured by my learned and ingenious friend the Rev. Mr. Denne with the following very ſatisfactory particulars of this pariſh.

* Bibl. Topogr. Britan. N° I. p. 77.

† Dugdale's Origin. Judicial.

Frindſbury,

Frindſbury, or *Frendſbury*, is a pariſh in the weſt diviſion of the county of Kent. *Freondeſbirigh* is its denomination in ſome old deeds, and this word in the Saxon ſignifies, according to Lambard*, the Friend's Court. The church is ſituated about a mile from the weſt end of Rocheſter bridge, and the limits of the pariſh extend from the Medway to the Thames. Its other boundaries are the pariſhes of St. Werburgh in Hoo, Higham, Shorne, Cobham, and Strood.

Dr. Plott conceived that the Roman Watling-ſtreet, which, in his time, might be traced from the bank of the Thames a little above Lambeth palace as far as the north gate of Cobham park, went from thence over the hill where Frendſbury mill ſtands, and ſo to a point of land in Frendſbury marſh that was nearly oppoſite to Chatham church. He gave into this opinion becauſe there was here a ſhallow which made it the moſt fordable place through the Medway, and he adds its being a tradition, that, in the memory of our grandfathers, the river might have been paſſed here, there being not above three or four feet water upon a low ebb, and that in their paſſage over they uſed to tread upon the heads of horſes. The laſt circumſtance in this traditional tale certainly gives it the caſt of a vulgar notion, and it the leſs deſerves our paying an implicit credit to it, becauſe in the reigns of Elizabeth and James the royal dockyard was where the ordnance office now is.

If a judgment may be duly formed from preſent appearances, the narroweſt and the ſhalloweſt part of the river below the bridge

* Perambulation, p. 365.

was

was from the end of Strood-ſtreet to Rocheſter key; and in an eſſay concerning the four great Roman ways ſubjoined to Leland's Itinerary, vol. VI.* ſatisfactory reaſons are aſſigned for this being the ancient place of fording. The pariſh of Frendſbury ought formerly to have contributed towards the repair of the firſt pier and arch of Rocheſter bridge; and it was probably for this reaſon that William Saunder, whilſt vicar of Frendſbury, was warden of the bridge†.

Offa king of the Mercians and Sigered king of Kent are mentioned to have given Frendſbury and Æſſingham to the church of Rocheſter (ſee Textus Roffenſis, c. 92.) but there is a more circumſtantial detail of this donation in two other chapters of this curious MS. In chap. 47, the title of which is of Æſlingham, or Freondſbury, Offa, by a writing dated at Canterbury anno 764, is recorded (with the conſent of archbiſhop Bregewine, and Herbert king of Kent) to have granted to Eardulf biſhop of Rocheſter twenty-one plowlands in Æſlingham, with the appurtenances and advantages, in as ample a manner as they had been of old held by the earls, princes, and kings of Kent. Eardulf was alſo to have the liberty of diſpoſing of theſe lands in any manner he pleaſed. Though this was termed a free gift by Offa, the biſhop ſeems to have made ſome pecuniary acknowledgment, but probably not an equivalent. In the next chapter Sigered, who ſtyles himſelf king of the half part of the province of the Kentiſhmen, claims the merit of preſenting Æſlingham to Eardulf, with the conſent of the archbiſhop of Canterbury; and he is ſaid not only to have ſigned and ſealed the deed, but to have eſtabliſhed the donation by the delivery of a turf of the land intended to be conveyed. Upon comparing theſe accounts, it is

*P. 118.

† He became afterwards rector of Hynton in Northamptonſhire, and died February 2, 1452. Brydges's Hiſtory of that county, p. 177.

manifeſt that Kent was at this time divided by the Medway into two regal provinces, and that both kings were in ſome degree dependent upon the victorious Offa. Three tracts of land called Denbers, in the common wood, were granted by Offa as appendant to Æſlingham, and four more Denbers were added by Sigered.

When Domeſday ſurvey was made, the biſhop of Rocheſter held Frendſbury, rated in the time of king Edward for ten ſhillings, but then for ſeven. The arable land was fifteen carucates. In demeſne were five carucates, and forty villans with twenty-eight borderers, having eleven carucates. There was a church and nine ſervants, and a mill of twelve ſhillings rent, twenty acres of meadow, and *wood of five porcaries* (ſilva 5 porc). In the time of king Edward and after, it was valued at 8*l.* but then worth 25*l.* What Richard held in his own Lowy was valued at ten ſhillings. Whether by *ſilva porc.* was meant any ſtated meaſurement of wood, or what was ſuppoſed to be ſufficient for the pannage of a certain number of hogs, is a point that the gloſſaries leave doubtful; but it is moſt likely to be a word of the ſame ſignification with *denber*, and that it was in this place intended to denote *porcarium*, a porcary, and not *porci*, hogs. Mr. Haſted's conſtruction of the words is a pannage of five hogs †, which appears however to be too confined a range for ſo large a manor as Frendſbury was.

Richard here mentioned was Richard de Clare earl of Glouceſter, who had a grant from William I. of Tunbridge caſtle, and of a conſiderable tract of land denominated the Lowy of the ſame. Dr. Harris is of opinion that the earl had procured the eſtates which belonged to him in other parts of the county to be accounted within the juriſdiction of his lowy, and that this might

Regiſtrum Roffenſe, p. 370.

† Hiſtory of Kent, vol. I. p. 542.

be

be the reaſon for our meeting with theſe entries in the Domeſday inquiſition of Frendſbury, Southfleet, Halling, &c. &c *. But the words ſtrongly imply that the lands which Richard held of the biſhop as lord of theſe manors were in Tunbridge. It is particularly ſaid of Southfleet manor, that there is in Tunbridge as much wood and arable land as is valued at twenty ſhillings; nor is it difficult to trace how the biſhops of Rocheſter became poſſeſſed of lands within that diſtrict. The denbers given by Offa and by Sigered are ſaid to be in a common wood, the term is *veald ſeuueſtra* †; and as Tunbridge has ever been deemed a part of the *weald* of Kent, that the lowy ſhould have within its extent one or more of theſe denbers is a highly probable ſuppoſition. The diſtance of Tunbridge from Frendſbury can be no objection againſt this ſurmiſe; becauſe, as Somner has remarked, there is ſcarce any grant in the regiſters of either the church of Canterbury or Rocheſter of any conſiderable portion of land from the king out of the weald, without a denber or woody valley in the weald, in which they were to have liberty of running and feeding cattle, particularly ſwine. And it adds no ſmall weight to this conjecture, that Gilbert de Tunbridge, the ſon of Richard, is recorded to have reſtored to the monks of St. Andrew in Rocheſter their lands within his lowy of Tunbridge, viz. Uppringeberi, near Burne, which belonged to the manor of Frendſbury ‡.

Out of the profits of Frendſbury biſhop Gundulph at firſt appropriated 5*l.* 10*s.* for cloathing the monks of St. Andrew ‖; but he afterwards ſettled the manor itſelf upon this highly-favoured fraternity, reſerving only ſome certain articles of proviſion which were to be paid to the biſhops of Rocheſter towards

* Hiſtory of Kent, p. 127.
† Text. Roffen. c. 48.
‡ Roman Ports and Forts, p. 108.
‖ Text. Roffen. c. 176.

keeping hoſpitality, eſpecially on the feſtival of St. Andrew the Apoſtle, to whom that cathedral was dedicated.

Ernulph, the compiler of the Textus Roffenſis, and who, after a ſhort interval, was Gundulph's ſucceſſor in that ſee, with the conſent, and at the requeſt of the monks, ſettled the alms that ſhould be diſtributed in commemoration of Gundulph, and appointed what each manor belonging to the church ſhould contribute for that purpoſe. The whole allowance amounted to twenty ſhillings and ſeven ſalmons, of which Frendſbury and three other manors were to give ſix ſhillings and two ſalmons. With the money the cellerar was to buy bread and ſome ſmall fiſh as a dole for the poor; but the ſalmon were to be ſerved up in the refectory of the convent. As Gundulph died in March, the lenten ſeaſon would not permit the monks to feaſt more luxuriouſly on the anniverſary of their great benefactor *.

It appears from the Cuſtumale Roffenſe †, that the eſtate at Frendſbury was ſo conſiderable as to afford the priory of St. Andrew a firme or ſubſiſtence in proviſion for three months in the year; and in the ſame MS. is a particular account of the cuſtomary ſervices of this manor, of which the following is an abſtract:—That there were 22 yoke (*juga*) of gave land of one ſervice, and of one render—that the amount of the money-render for each yoke was 13*s.* 4*d.*—that the tenants were alſo required, upon notice from the bailiff, to do all work neceſſary for ſowing 21 acres of wheat; and that a forfeiture was to be incurred by each tenant who did not perform his proper ſhare before the feaſt of St. Martin (Nov. 11.)—that 16 only of the ſaid yoke were ſubject to the plowing of the ſame number of acres in the ſpring

* Regiſt. Roffen. p. 7.

† Fol. 47. This curious old MS. is printed, and Mr. Thorpe propoſes to publiſh it as ſoon as a ſuitable appendix to the Regiſtrum Roffenſe, together with ſundry plates of Antiquities.

ſeaſon,

ſeaſon, becauſe the five yoke of Bromhei were exempt from this plowing—that the tenants ought alſo to mow ten acres and a half of paſture, and to make, carry, and well ſtalk the produce thereof; and likewiſe in autumn to mow, carry, and ſtalk 21 acres. From the 21 yoke the following proviſion-renders were alſo to be made.—At the *Xenium*, or hoſpital entertainment on St. Andrew's day, 84 pullets and 21 geeſe.—At Eaſter 2100 eggs, of which the biſhop was to have 500, and the cellarer of the convent 500, and the remainder were for the court at Frendſbury.—To the biſhop were alſo to be delivered 21 lambs.—The monks are noticed to have had in demeſne four carucates, and 28 hinds or cottagers *(ruſtici)*, who had an allowance of bread and cheeſe only for ſhearing the ſheep.

From a MS. in the Cotton collection it is plain that the biſhop had ſome other allowances beſides thoſe above recited, and which the compiler of the Cuſtumale ſeems not to have recorded, as conceiving the biſhop's claim to them not to have been warranted by Gundulph's grant, viz. five and a quarter, *freſcingas*, ſuppoſed to be a certain quantity of bacon *, and three portions of ſturgeon and of lampreys, and ſixty bundles of furze. When the biſhop did not chuſe to receive theſe articles in kind, he was to be paid in money for them according to the following prices; for each freſcinga 2*s.*—for each gooſe 2*d.*—each pullet 1*d.*—for a piece of ſturgeon 4*d.*—lampreys per hundred 8*d.*—of ſtraw or furze four bundles 1*d.* The ſalmons paid by Frendſbury and ſome other manors valued at 10*s.* but theſe were changed for ſtur-

* A ſuitable diſh with the eggs abovementioned; and it is obſerved in the Antiquarian Repertory, vol. III. p. 44. that the cuſtom of eating a gammon of bacon at Eaſter, which is ſtill kept up in many parts of England, was founded on this, viz. to ſhew their abhorrence to Judaiſm at that ſolemn commemoration of our Lord's Reſurrection.

geon;

geon; and eight pieces of ſturgeon were conſidered as equivalent to one ſalmon *.

The priory of St. Andrew held the manor of Frendſbury till the ſuppreſſion of that religious houſe, when it became veſted by act of parliament in the crown; and king Henry granted the ſame to the dean and chapter of Rocheſter, in his charter of donation of that church. They are now poſſeſſed of it; Mr. Philip Boghurſt is their tenant, who a few years ſince erected the commodious and ſubſtantial courtlodge, which is ſituated near the church.

Antiently the advowſon of Frendſbury was appendant to the manor, and ſo remained till Gundulph rendered it diſappendant, by granting to the priory of St. Andrew the manor without the patronage of the church. The monks, however, by a grant from John archdeacon of Canterbury, who was conſecrated biſhop of Rocheſter 1125, obtained a temporary acquiſition of the church of Frendſbury with the chapel of Strode belonging to it, and of all lands and tithes appertaining to the ſame; which grant being deemed invalid by his ſucceſſor in this dioceſe, John de Sues, he took from the monks the church of Frendſbury, as well as ſeveral other churches, and conferred the ſame, together with the archdeaconry of Rocheſter, on Robert Pellan or Pulleyne. With this ſpoliation of their rights, as the monks termed it, they being diſſatisfied, applied to the Pope for redreſs; and Aſceline, who was appointed biſhop of Rocheſter on the death of John de Sues, repaired to the court of Rome, in order to ſupport their claim. Celeſtine II. was at that time Pope, and in the abſence of Pulleyne, againſt whom the appeal was made, he ordered all the churches, except that of Frendſbury, to be re-

* Regiſt. Roff. p. 133, 134. Haddenham in Bucks was rated for a fiſh of the value of twenty ſhillings; it muſt have been a large and a delicately flavoured fiſh to bear ſo high a price in thoſe days.

ſtored;

ſtored; and Frendſbury not being included in the Pope's decree, there can be little room to doubt that the pretenſion of the monks to that church was entirely groundleſs.

It was ſuggeſted by the monks, that the non-appearance of their adverſary muſt be attributed to his conſciouſneſs of the injuſtice of his cauſe; but it ſhould ſeem that a due time was not allowed for him to attend, and that the queſtion was determined with ſome precipitation, becauſe the pontificate of Celeſtine laſted only five months. After the death of Celeſtine, Pulleyne procured from Lucius II. a re-hearing of the cauſe, and a reverſal of the ſentence given by his predeceſſor, and had ſo much intereſt with the Pope, as to obtain a permiſſion to reſign, in favour of his nephew Paris, the archdeaconry of Rocheſter, and the ſeveral churches, with their rights, claimed by the priory of St. Andrew. The monks, therefore, ſent a deputation of their body to Rome, who carried with them a letter of earneſt intreaty in their behalf from biſhop Aſcelin to Pope Eugenius III. However, all their endeavours to recover the churches from the court of Rome were fruitleſs. Paris kept poſſeſſion of them; but afterwards, in order to prevent all further litigation, he appears to have made a kind of acknowledgement of his having them by their gift, upon condition of their agreeing he ſhould have quiet enjoyment of them as long as he lived *.

Very ſevere were the monks in their reproaches upon biſhop John de Sues, pronouncing him to have acted more like a plunderer than a paſtor; nor could they forbear ſhewing ſome marks of their reſentment towards Pulleyne. As the prelate was a foreigner, did not hold the ſee of Rocheſter more than five years, and might not probably often reſide in his dioceſe, little of his character is known; but in beſtowing theſe preferments on Pulleyne, he ſhewed himſelf to be an encourager of a man of merit;

* Regiſt. Roffen. p. 8. 10.

for

for Pulleyne is univerſally agreed to have been a perſon diſtinguiſhed for his ſuperior knowledge in moſt branches of literature. His name occurs in the liſt of the chancellors of Oxford, and he was worthy of that ſtation. Leland has extolled him as a reſtorer of learning there, and as one who omitted nothing that might conduce to the inſtructing of youth in the learned languages. He alſo, for five years, read lectures upon the holy ſcriptures, the ſtudy of which had been for ſome time neglected by the members of that univerſity, and every Lord's day he preached to the people, who were much edified by his doctrine. His fame ſpread far; and being ſent for to Rome, Pope Celeſtine made him a cardinal, and Pope Lucius his chancellor, and by his intereſt with the court of Rome, he procured ſeveral bulls and charters of privileges for the government and ſecurity of the univerſity of Oxford *. Conſidering the relation which ſo eminent a man as Pulleyne bore to Frendſbury, this ſhort account of him will hardly be thought an unſuitable digreſſion from the hiſtory of this pariſh, which ſhall now be reſumed.

Though the monks failed in their attempt to keep poſſeſſion of the church of Frendſbury, they eſtabliſhed a right to a penſion of one mark a year out of it. This was a grant to them from biſhop John the firſt, and was moſt probably the whole of what he really gave them. The money was to be diſtributed in alms to the poor on the anniverſary of their benefactor †.

From Gundulph the monks obtained an eaſy compoſition for ſome of the tithes of ſome of the manerial lands they held, and a total exemption for others, which privileges were confirmed to them by ſeveral biſhops of Rocheſter, and alſo recognized by archbiſhop Peckham on St. Mark's day 1281. The compoſition for the demeſnes of Frendſbury manor conſiſted of a field called Nelgfield, formerly a part of the demeſne, and one acre of wheat,

* Tanner, Bibliotheca, p. 602.

† Regiſt. Roffen. p. 59.

one

one of barley, and one of oats, all to be grain of the middling ſort in the time of harveſt; but for wool, milk, and all other ſmall tithes, nothing was to be paid. The church of Frendſbury was to have only the tithe of ſheaves from the grange of Chattindon, which was a member of Frendſbury manor; and at Rede, which was another member, the almoner of the convent received the whole tithe of ſheaves, but no tithe whatever was payable to the church *.

Anno 1193, Gilbert de Glanville, biſhop of Rocheſter, ſettled on his newly founded hoſpital in Strood the chapel of Strood, with all its emoluments, except the tithe of corn. In this grant he had the concurrence of William archdeacon of Rocheſter, who was at that time rector of Frendſbury, and with his conſent likewiſe Strood was then made an independent parochial diſtrict †.

Biſhop Laurence de St. Martin had, in 1256, the conſent of the priory of St. Andrew to an appropriation of the church of Frendſbury to the biſhop and his ſucceſſors, the ſame being then vacant. This appropriation was confirmed by Pope Clement IV. April 3, 1267, and has ever ſince been enjoyed, together with the advowſon of the vicarage, by the ſee of Rocheſter ‡. A vicar muſt have been ſettled not long after the rectory's being appropriated, as William is ſo denominated in 1289. The ordination of the vicarage is not extant; but the vicar by uſage, as the miniſter of Strood, under leaſe from the dean and chapter of Rocheſter by endowment, is entitled to all tithes except thoſe of corn and grain.

Thomas Inglethorp, biſhop of Rocheſter, granted to William, vicar of Frendſbury, and to his ſucceſſors for ever, the above piece of land called Nelegfield, the boundaries of which are ſet out in the grant. In conſideration of this donation, the vicars were always to retain a proper chaplain, who, when there was

* Regiſt. Roffen. p. 91, 92. † Ibid. p. 632.
‡ Ibid. p. 66. 68.

occaſion, was to aſſiſt the vicar in ſupporting the burdens and diſcharging the duties of the pariſh. The vicars were alſo to be ſubject to the expence of binding the books of the church, and to the repair of phials, ſurplices, and rochets.

19 Edward I. (1291) the church, i.e. the rectory of Frendsbury, with Strood included, was valued at 60 marks, and the vicarage at 100*s.** In 1535, 26 Henry VIII. the vicarage was rated for firſt fruits at 10*l.* 3*s.* 11½*d.* and for tenths at 1*l.* 0*s.* 4½*d.* The procuration paid by the vicar to the biſhop when he viſits is 2*s.* 6*d.* i. e. after the proportion of 6*d.* in the pound, according to the old valuation, and 7*s.* 6*d.* a year to the archdeacon. And in 1533, when a taxation was made in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, to defray the expences of Mr. Eliſha Bayley, their proctor in convocation, 1*s.* 4*d.* was the quota for the vicar of Frendsbury†. The church of Frendsbury anciently paid 12*d.* a year for the chriſm‡.

The vicar has a manſion and fifteen acres of glebe land; but the vicarage houſe is at an inconvenient diſtance from the church, and not in a very healthy ſituation.

A church at Frendſbury is recorded in Domeſday book, but it muſt have then been ſo dilapidated as to have fallen down ſoon after, if credit is to be given to a memorandum in Regiſtrum Roffenſe§ of there being no church in the time of Gundulph. It was however rebuilt with ſtone between 1125 and 1137 by Paulinus the ſacriſt of the priory at Rocheſter, who alſo furniſhed it with books and veſtments‖. A view of this church is given in plate XI.

* From the old valuation printed in the Hiſtory of Rocheſter by Rawlinſon, p. 79.
† Act. Cur. Conſiſt.
‡ Text. Roffen. c. 213.
§ P. 8.
‖ Ibid. p. 118.

The

The church of Frendſbury, which is dedicated to All Saints, conſiſts of a nave and ſouth aile*, and is 64 feet in length and 48 in breadth. The chancel is in length 36 feet, and in breadth 26. At the weſt end of the church is a tower 20 feet ſquare and 40 feet high, upon which is a tower of nearly the ſame height. Richard Young, who was biſhop of Rocheſter from 1404 to 1418, made windows in Frendſbury church; and when Lambard wrote his Perambulation, a picture of this prelate was remaining in one of the windows.

In the tower are five bells, beſides the ſancte bell. The names of the benefactors are not recorded; the names of the bell-founders and dates being the only inſcriptions, which are as follow: Date of the firſt bell 1637. On the ſecond, John Danbe made me 1656. The third could not be got at. On the fourth, William Reeve, bell-founder, 1584. On the fifth, Robert Watſon and John Rawlinſon, bell-founders, 1658. On the ſancte bell is inſcribed "Gerrit Schimmel me fecit Daventria, 1670."

Thomas Woldham, biſhop of Rocheſter, by his will, dated in September 1316, gave ten marks to his poor pariſhioners of Frendsbury †.

* Mr. Warton, in his deſcription of Kiddington church, p. 4, remarked that the old Norman-built parochial churches ſeldom conſiſted of more than one aile or pace: if the preſent church of Frendſbury is the ſame that was erected between the years 1125 and 1137, and there is no reaſon to think otherwiſe, this is one exception to that author's obſervation.

† Reg. Roff. p. 113. The biſhop gave ten pounds to Ade of Frendſbury, and the ſame ſum to the ſons and daughters of the ſaid Ade; he alſo bequeathed to Ade one grey colt of two years old (*coloris grecei*).

The church and the poor of Frendsbury are ſtill poſſeſſed of the following benefactions:

Seven acres of land, in two pieces, lying in this pariſh, the donor unknown; but the rent accruing from them has always been expended in repairing the church.

One acre of land, lying near Upnor, given by Bonham Penniſtone, yeoman, towards the repairs of the church.

The green, containing one acre, the rent of it to repair the church.

A mill and 27 acres of land in Hoo, the joint purchaſe of Robert Gunſley, clerk, and the pariſhioners. A part of the rent of this eſtate to be applied in repairing the church, and the reſidue to be divided among the poor.

A tenement and orchard in Higham, the gift of John Green, yeoman, the rent to be laid out in bread for the poor.

A tenement in Strood, given by Richard Watſon, the rent to be divided among ten of the pooreſt people.

As the regiſter of births and burials in Frendsbury does not commence till 1669, it will not afford any aſſiſtance towards tracing the populouſneſs of this pariſh at an earlier period, and diſcovering whether any perſons eminent for their abilities or learning were natives of it. But from Mr. Maſters's Hiſtory of Ben'et college in Cambridge *, it ſhould ſeem that Mr. Johnſon, vicar of Apuldore and Cranbrooke, in the weald of Kent, and author of the Clergyman's Vade Mecum, and of ſome books in ſupport of the notion he had conceived of the euchariſt's being an unbloody ſacrifice, was born at Frendsbury 30th December, 1662, his father, Mr. Thomas Johnſon, being vicar of that pariſh.

* P. 318.

Æſtingham,

Æſlingham, *Chaddington*, *Goddington*, *Wainſcot*, and *Bromhei* are diſtricts in Frendſbury, which formerly belonged to perſons of ſome conſequence; but for the account of the genealogies of the families who were ſucceſſively poſſeſſed of them, and the tenures by which they held them, the reader is referred to the hiſtories of Kent, and particularly to Mr. Haſted's very late publication. So eminent was Æſlingham as, at times, to have given its name to the whole pariſh; and Hugh de St. Clare, when owner of it, had weight ſufficient to obtain from biſhop Gundulph the grant of a free chapel within his manor *. A deſcription of this chapel, with an account of the ancient privileges annexed to it, is not inſerted, becauſe Mr. Thorpe propoſes to publiſh an engraving of it from an accurate ſurvey, and to add a ſuitable illuſtration.

Lambard, in his Perambulation, p. 350, mentions a ſtreet in Frendsbury called *Upnour*, from which, as adjoining to it, the caſtle of Upnour took its name. This fortreſs was erected by queen Elizabeth in the third year of her reign, for the ſecurity of her navy, as the inſcription upon it teſtifies, in which are theſe words:

"Who gave me this ſhew, to none other ende,
"But ſtrongly to ſtande, her navie to defende."

However, in 1667, when the Dutch fleet under Van Ghendt ſailed up the Medway, this caſtle, by the neglect of Charles II. was in ſo unprovided a ſtate, that major Scott, who commanded in it, could but little annoy the enemy, ſix of whoſe men of war with fireſhips having broke through the chain, were carried up as high as Upnor, and burnt ſome, and damaged others of the king's capital ſhips. The capital miſtake and fault in the king

* Regiſtrum Roffenſe, p. 370.

and

and his miniſters conſiſted in not having a fleet properly prepared to repel the inſults of an enemy; for to the inhabitants of an iſland, floating and not fixed batteries are the beſt defence.

An anecdote reſpecting the father of the celebrated Sir Francis Drake is given by Lediard in his Naval Hiſtory *, which, as it is connected with Upnor, ought not to be unnoticed. Lediard's account is, that in the reign of Henry VIII. whilſt Sir Francis was a child, the father, who had embraced the Proteſtant religion, being obliged to leave his houſe in Devonſhire, retired into Kent, and there inhabited the hull of a ſhip, in which many of the younger of his twelve ſons were born. This author adds, that Mr. Drake, in the time of Edward VI. got his livelihood by reading prayers to the ſeamen, was ordained deacon, and made vicar of the church of Upnor, on the river Medway †. That Mr. Drake officiated as a clergyman in the navy is probable, and he might have been curate of Frendsbury: but he certainly was not vicar of that pariſh; nor does it appear that there ever was a church, or even a chapel, at Upnor.

* I. 154.

† This ſtory ſeems to be copied from Camden's Annals of queen Elizabeth *, who relates, as from Sir Francis' own mouth, that while he was yet a child, his father embracing the Proteſtant religion, being called in queſtion by the law of the ſix articles made by Henry VIII. againſt the Proteſtants, withdrew into Kent. After the death of king Henry he got a place in the king's navy to read prayers to them, and ſoon after he was ordained deacon, and made vicar of the church of Upnore on the river Medway, where the royal fleet uſually rides. But, by reaſon of his poverty, he put his ſon apprentice to the maſter of a bark, his neighbour, who in reward for his induſtry bequeathed his veſſel to him. Dr. Campbell, in his Life of Drake in the Biographia Britannica, reconciles the chronology of this ſtory, by referring it to queen Mary's time, ſince the navy was not ſtationed in the Medway till queen Elizabeth's reign. See alſo his Lives of the Admirals, I. 514.

* P. 351. Ed. Hearne.

BRITISH MUSEUM

J.B. Pouncy del. 1772.

South East View of WROTHAM CHURCH, Kent.

T. Cary sculp.

WROTHAM.

THIS pariſh is large and extenſive, and takes in almoſt the whole hundred to which it gives name. It is in the deanery of Shoreham, and a peculiar to the archbiſhop of Canterbury, but in the dioceſe of Rocheſter. The manor is very conſiderable, and is mentioned in Domeſday book to belong to the archbiſhops of Canterbury, and in their poſſeſſion it continued till 29 Henry VIII. when it was exchanged by archbiſhop Cranmer with the crown for other lands. There are ſix diſtinct borſholderſhips within this manor, the borſholders of which, as alſo the conſtables for the upper and lower diviſion of the hundred, are all of them annually choſen at the court-leet of the ſaid manor. The borſholders likewiſe for the boroughs of *Ightham* and *Shipborne* are bound to pay *ſuit and ſervice* at the ſeveral leets of this manor, to which belong all royal franchiſes, as being a liberty within itſelf; and the lord hath all *deodands*, *felons*, *waifs*, *ſtrays*, *treaſure trove*, &c *. The liberty of Wrotham claims likewiſe over *Plaxtoole* and *Stanſted*, which are not valued in the king's books, becauſe they were antiently a part of the pariſh; but in the year 1647, they were taken out of it by act of parliament, and made diſtinct pariſhes by themſelves †. The rectory, with the chapel of *Stanſted* annexed, is valued in the king's books at 50l. 8s. *per annum*, and the vicarage at 22l. 5s. 10d. *per annum*. The rectory was formerly impropriated and leaſed out by the archbiſhops of Canterbury; but archbiſhop Teniſon let the leaſe run out, and then annexed the great tithes to the vicarage, by which

* Harris's Hiſt. of Kent, p. 341.

† Kilburne's Survey, p. 216. 255.

means

means Wrotham is now the beſt benefice in the dioceſe of Rochester *.

The church is large, and kept in excellent repair, with a good ſtrong tower, containing eight bells, accounted one of the moſt tunable peals in this county. There are many neat mural monuments, and ſeveral grave-ſtones with braſs plates, particularly of the antient family of the *Peckhams* †. From *John de Peckham*, who attended Richard I. at the ſiege of Acon, deſcended *Martin de Peckham*, who married *Margery*, one of the three daughters and coheirs of Sir *Thomas de Aldham*, deſcended from *Thomas de Aldham*, who likewiſe attended the ſaid king on that expedition; and by this marriage, did increaſe his patrimony here with *Aldham*, a conſiderable manor in this pariſh ‡. The church muſt be of very antient ſtanding, from the above families being interred in it, and from the archbiſhops of Canterbury being poſſeſſed of the manor at ſo early a period, and having a manſion-houſe contiguous to the church. Archbiſhop Simon Iſlip pulled it, for the moſt part, down, and carried the materials to Maidſtone, towards building of the palace there, which his predeceſſor John Ufford had begun §. A ſmall portion of this at Wrotham ſtill remains next the ſtreet; and without doubt the largeneſs of the chancel, and the antient ſtalls on each ſide were, as Dr. Harris obſerves, to accommodate the clergy when they attended on the archbiſhops during their reſidence here, and which I have likewiſe ſeen in ſome other churches of the Peculiars, where they had manſions.

When Dr. Potter was rector he new paved the chancel end, by which means the grave-ſtones with braſs plates over two of the old rectors were taken up, and not replaced, which ſurely ſhould have been done either in ſome other part of the chancel or

* Harris's Hiſt. p. 341. † Regiſt. Roff. p. 833, et ſeq.
‡ Philipot, p. 374. § Kilburne, p. 297.

body of the church. When I was there in the year 1768, the ſaid plates were then in a coal-hole in the church, at which time I copied their inſcriptions, which are ſince inſerted in the *Regiſt. Roff.* He likewiſe put in new plain ſemicircular windows, glazed with ſmall ſquares, at Stanſtead church; and when I was there in the ſame year, the old ſtone window-jaumbs, with Gothic mouldings and mitred arches, lay ſcattered about the church-yard.

The two antient tombs near the church door at Wrotham, which long ſince have been robbed of their braſs plates, were erected, as Francis Thinne, who was Lancaſter herald, ſaith, the one to the memory of *Martin Peckham*, eſq. the other to *Margery* his wife, who brought ample revenues to the family of the *Peckhams*.

Robert Glover, Somerſet herald, in his collections, ſaith, that *John Peckham*, eſq. was lord of the manor of *Weſt Peckham* in the firſt year of Henry III; and *John Peckham* archbiſhop of *Canterbury* in the reign of Edward I. left great eſtates to his poſterity *.

Wrotham R. and V. *St. George.* cum *Woodland*, *Plaxtool*, and *Stanſted St. Mary.*	cap.	In the patronage of the archbiſhop of Canterbury †.

The South Eaſt view of this church exhibited in plate XIII. is from an accurate drawing in the year 1772.

It may be proper juſt to obſerve, that this ſhort account of Wrotham church was drawn up, and partly printed off, before the publication of Mr. Haſted's ſecond volume; to which uſeful work the reader is referred for a more particular account of the pariſh, and for a view of the remains of the palace.

* Weever's Fun. Mon. p. 326. † Willis's Paroch. Ang. p. 12.

ANTIQUITIES IN KENT,

Deſcribed in a Letter from Robert Plott, LL.D. *keeper of the* Aſhmolean Muſeum *in the Univerſity of* Oxford; *deſigned to be ſent to the* Royal Society *in* London.

GENTLEMEN, Apledore, Sept. 3, 1693.

ON Monday laſt I went to Chilham, to view the tumulus of Quintus Durus Laberius, which is not in the form of any Roman barrow I ever ſaw, being more like one of our preſent graves; I paced it, and found it to be ſeventy of my paces in length, and twenty in breadth. This Laberius was a tribune, ſlain in one of Cæſar's engagements with the Britains; the country people to this day call it *Julaberries grave*. About half a mile from hence is a handſome ſeat of Mr. Diggs's, built within the trenches of Chilham caſtle, the keep of which is yet ſtanding, and made uſe for a brewing-houſe.

On Tueſday I went back again to Richborow, to make a more ſtrict enquiry into ſome particulars of antiquity; the one was, whether it was poſſible that Richborow could ever have been part of the iſle of Thanet, as ſome authors affirm. I found that the lands at Goſſehall and Fleet, which lye on the weſt ſide of Richborow, are ſituated lower than the lands which the Stower paſſeth by; and while we were here, I met with ſeveral ſea-ſhells in the meadows.

On Wedneſday I luckily hit on a double intrenchment in a wood, within three miles of the ancient city of Canterbury, a city honoured with the Engliſh primacy; the inward trench contains an acre and half, the outward one about four times as much: it is very probable that this was the place where Cæſar met with the Britains in his ſecond expediton; for he ſays, that after he had

had left Quintus Atrius to defend his ſhips, at that time lying above a mile and half wide off the town of Sandwich, he marched twelve miles up into the country, where he met with the Britains near a river, and forced them firſt of all to retire into one of their fortifications, and afterwards forcing their lines, beat them from thence. Camden contends this battle to have been at Chilham, though the diſtance does not agree, neither are there any ruins of a fortification to countenance his aſſertion.

On Thurſday I walked to Hyth, along a Roman cauſeway raiſed high, and paved with flint. This is one of the cinque-ports, and formerly contained ſix pariſhes: that of St. Nicholas only now remains; the chancel is raiſed extremely on grey marble pillars. In the charnel-houſe are great numbers of bones, and ſome of them very large. The inhabitants have ſeveral traditions of theſe bones, which, as fictitious, I ſhall omit. They are white and thin: I took the dimenſions of ſome of the largeſt. Two miles from hence are the ruins of Saltwood caſtle, formerly belonging to the ſee of Canterbury; it ſeems to have been a ſtately ſtructure, is of an oval form, and twenty-five rods in length. Within two miles of Folkſtone is a fortification of earth called *Caſtle*, which has one trench towards the ſea, and ſometimes one, at other times two trenches towards the continent, according as the nature of the hill requires.

On Saturday I viſited Stutfall caſtle, a Roman ſtation. This was the *Portus Limenus*, whoſe ruins include eight acres of land, and are in form of an oblong ſquare; the walls are compoſed of a rocky ſtone, and a mortar made of the ſea-ſand and ſmall pebbles; at two yards diſtance run double rows of Roman brick 14 or 15 inches long. Within a quarter of a mile from Lymne church is Shipway-court, a field where the lord warden of the cinque-ports is ſworn, and cauſes concerning the ports tried From hence I walked on the beach to Romney, and this morning from

from thence hither, paſſing moſt of the way through the old channel of the Rother. Theſe are all the obſervations I have made in my journey through this part of the truly loyal county of Kent, which wil no ways recompence the time loſt in the peruſal of this from, Gentlemen,

Your humble ſervant,

R. PLOTT.

ADDITION to p. 28.

Anno 1529. Concordatum fuit inter dominum Johannem Bodyll, rectorem eccleſie parochialis de Coxſton, et dominum Thomam Snydall, vicarium de Hallyng Roffen' dioc', ſuper quibuſdam litibus pro decimis ſupvenientibus in parte boriali cujuſdam tenementi vocat' Hornes places prope eccleſiam parochialem de Coxſton predicta ſituati. In preſenciis magiſtri Ricardi Scharpe, ſacre theologie profeſſoris, magiſtri Roberti Johnſon in legibus bacallarii, et domini Johannis Wright, vicarii ſancte Margarete juxta Roffam, in hunc modum ut ſequitur.

The ſaid Sir John Bodle, parſon of Coxſton, ſchall have paide to hym by Sir Thomas Snydall, vicar of Hallyng, for the tithes of ſuche perſones and ſervaunts lying in the north ſide of Hornes Place, everi Yeſtre duryng ther liffes xvid.

Preſente me Johe Bere, notario, cum partibus predictis.

E libro viſitat' et actor' anno predict'. fol. 1. a.

END OF THE SIXTH NUMBER.

BRITISH MUSEUM

*** Number VI. conſiſts of Two Parts, and contains Thirteen Plates, Six in the Firſt Part, and Seven in the Second.